

BLUE GRASS BLADE.

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IS CHRISTIANITY CHRISTIAN?

In a recent address before the Peace Conference, at Lake Mohonk, the famous Chinese diplomat, Wu Ting Fang, discussing peace, very abruptly told his hearers, that "whenever the Christian Church became Christian, war would cease."

While the statement may be considered unpalatable for Christian minds, we are of the opinion that the speaker has incorrectly stated the issue. As a matter of fact, the Christian Church has ever been Christian, and nothing else. It was Christian in the days of Constantine, Christian under Clement, Christian through all the dark ages, Christian under the days of the Inquisition, Christian at the time of Luther's revolt, Christian under Henry VIII., Christian in the days of the Puritan fathers, and it is Christian today. War is not contrary to Christian teaching, and it is certainly *en rapport* with Christian practice. But for the sword there would be no Christian Church in existence today. According to the New Testament record of the central figure of the Christian system, he told his hearers that if they had not a sword, to sell their garments and buy one. As a sword is used for no other purpose than war, it is presumed that Jesus intended his followers to fight, if need be, and to kill, if necessary, to propagate faith in himself. When the Christian Church ceases to

foster and encourage war, it will cease to be Christian, and not till.

We are aware that professing Christians have sought to give a so-called spiritual interpretation to the utterance referred to, and would encourage a belief that the sword the hearers of Jesus were told to buy, was a mental sword, for purposes of argument only, and not for physical conflict. But for ages the quotation was used to kindle a warlike spirit in Christian breasts, to influence them against the Infidel, and to prove that armed force was not un-Christian when used in the name of their god.

It is a well-known fact that the most warlike nations on earth are the so-called Christian nations. Immense navies and big standing armies menace the peace of the world. Fancied superiority induces a trial in the art of professional murder. Ministers of the gospel pray over, and bless in the name of their god, every engine of destruction, every implement of war now in use, or in use during ages gone by. They accept pay from the public treasury for these barbarous and bloodthirsty services. When appointments of naval or army chaplains are to be made, sect fights against sect, preacher against preacher, for the sake of preference and the easily earned cash. Instead of declaring against war, these preachers encourage it for the sake of revenue, and this is and has been essentially a Christian practice.

Wu Ting Fang must not assume that Christianity is what it pretends to be. The churches and sects are rent in twain over disputes concerning the supposed founder of their faith. Professions of a mere belief are insufficient. Belief along doctrinal lines is all that the sects demand. Physical violence has ever been their great bulwark. Humanizing influences have seriously leavened the erstwhile Christian spirit. War and worship went hand in hand along the pathway of the Christian march to power. Boodles and boycott, flattery and ostracism, ever the weapons of fools, are made the stock in trade of Christian advocates today.

Wars of defense may sometimes become a political necessity, but Christian nations are renowned for their wars of conquest only. The Christian powers were allied against China but a few years ago, and while apparently non-belligerent during the Russo-Japanese war, all the Christian nations gave a secret sympathy and a silent support to Russia during that conflict, for the only reason that Russia was Christian and Japan a pagan nation.

War has ever been the bridge over which the Christian Church has trod to power. When it ceases to advocate war it will become Humanitarian and cease to be Christian. In the "bible" days, god actually took a part in war. At least, so it was believed. To do as their god had done could be no sin to the Christian mind, and swords stained with human blood, have been blessed and sanctified by the pharasaical hypocrites who "talk" of peace, but encourage war. The Christian Church has consistently been a fomentor of strife among men, and this breeds war.